

"That which can be asserted without evidence can be dismissed without evidence."  
(Christopher Hitchens). Do you agree?

How I understand the question: Are claims only truthful if they are backed up by evidence?

My opinion: I agree with the statement, Without evidence things can be dismissed, at least as far as saying they aren't 100% correct, nonetheless this doesn't make certain knowledge false. For something to be seen as 100% correct there has to be evidence to prove its validity.

Take Mathematics (Natural Science), the theories we learn are accepted universally as being correct. Take Pythagoras theorem, the general formula ( $C^2=a^2+b^2$ ) will always give you the length of a hypotenuse for a right angled triangle. It is a proven fact. No matter how many times you attempt to solve a problem using the theory it will always result in the correct answer.

Even in the human science, such as economics, theories are accepted as being correct without conclusive evidence of absolute validity. This is because they involve a human factor in the human sciences. People will always change and what may be right for some may not be right for everyone. Take the demand curve. It is the most basic economic principle. As price decreases, demand will increase. It is true, the majority of the population will be more willing and able to purchase the good at the decreased price, still this is not true for everyone. Certain individuals might simply never develop a demand for a metro ticket. Simply cause it isn't true for everyone doesn't make it unaccepted as a universal theory.

The complete opposite would be religion. It is an area of knowledge that is largely unproven. There is no physical and conclusive evidence of the existence of god. Consequently people openly disprove god. Atheism is the belief that there is no god. Without the evidence people do disprove the existence of god. They have the right to do so. No one can force them to believe or accept the existence without evidence. Others don't need the evidence to have faith in the existence of god. That is something personal though. Everyone has the right to faith, but this does not mean god is proven.

Without evidence people are entitled to dismiss claims and make their own judgments as to whether or not the claim is true or false. With evidence this is not the case, if a claim is backed up by evidence then it can't be dismissed, and vice versa. To evaluate claims we use reason. Reason let's us comprehend that even after billions of tries Pythagoras theorem will still work. Reason will also let us accept that although

demand theory may not be correct for everyone, it is the most accurate theory to display human reaction to a change in price. Reason also let's us decide if we require faith to accept god without evidence.